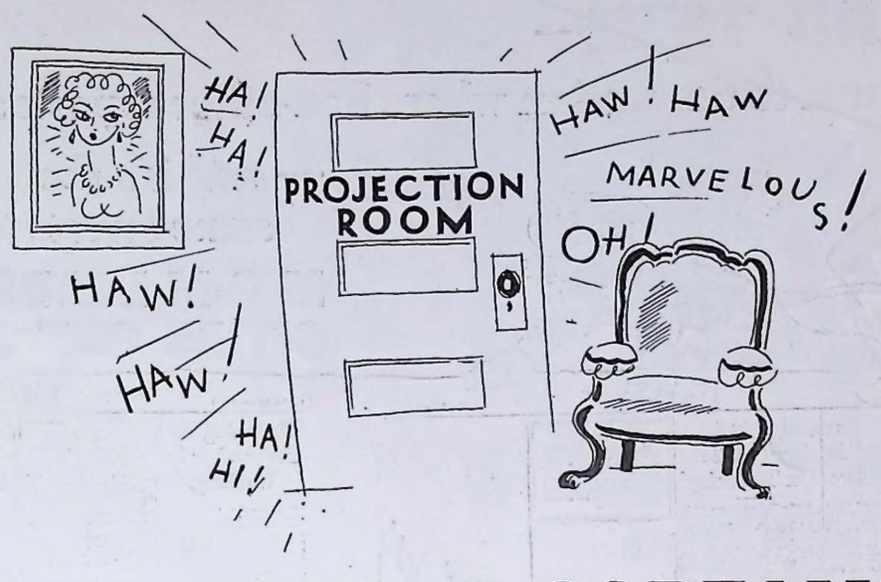
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 22, No. 44 TORONTO 2, CANADA February 28th, 1931





"WHAT'S THE SCREAMING FOR?" "Don't worry, mister, they're showing "Parlor, Bedroom and Bath."

(When hard-boiled picture men get hysterical in a projection room, it must be a great comedy! Watch!)

Buster Keaton in "Parlor, Bedroom and Bath" is another hit from

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

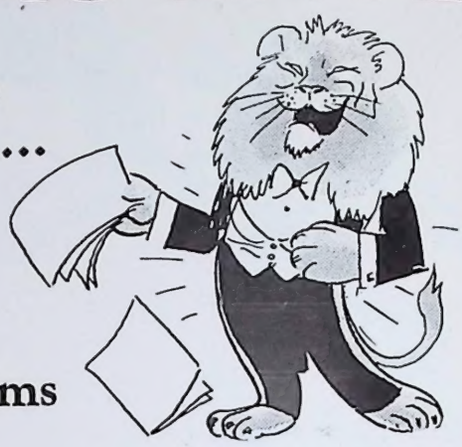
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

PARDON MY LAUGHTER!



I pick up the trade papers....

I learn from the ads how great every company seems to be—



AND THEN—

I turn to the section where box-office reports are printed



—and it's the same sweet story....

M-G-M LEADS IN 7 CITIES OUT OF 11—

MOTION PICTURE DAILY — Monday, February 2, 1931

$63,000 Puts "Reducing" in Lead at Frisco

San Francisco—"Reducing" showed its heels to the rest of the town to give the Fox an excellent week with a take of $63,000. Business was spotty at the other houses. "The Limit" doing well at the Warfield, showing that Clara Bow's draw has not been impaired here.

Estimated takings for the week ending January 30:

"REDUCING" (M-G-M). Fox—(3,424; 50-75-$1.00) (2nd week). Excellent $63,000. Last week, $50,000.

"THE LIMIT" (Par.). California—(1,600; 50-75-$1.00). Fair $15,000. Last week, $18,000.

"A WOMAN OF EXPERIENCE" (U.A.). Warfield—(2,700; 50-75-$1.00). Good $30,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $28,000.

"REDUCING" (M-G-M). Orpheum—(2,440; 50-75-$1.00). Fair $20,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $18,000.

"THE LIMIT" (Par.). Golden Gate—(2,850; 50-75-$1.00). Fair $20,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $20,000.

"REDUCING" (M-G-M). Wagner-Embassy—(1,400; 50-75-$1.00). Fair $12,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $12,000.

$20,000 Big For Seattle On 'Reducing'

Seattle—The big business which has been enjoyed by the Paramount since the first of the year was continued with "Reducing," which got capacity business for a gross of $20,000. Business at the Fifth Avenue was very good, "New Moon" getting $14,500. Other houses were average except the Fox, which packed "Over a Jump" a fair early and followed in with "Reducing" direct from the Paramount. Weather was fairly good after a rainy week-end.

Estimated takings for the week ending January 30:

"ET—" (Par.). Blue Mouse—(Stanley). Fair $5,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $5,000.

"REDUCING" (M-G-M). Fox—(3,000; 50-75-$1.00). Good $20,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $18,000.

"—" (Par.). Castello—(Sterling). Fair $5,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $5,000.

"—" (Par.). Fox Fifth Avenue—(1,500; 50-75). Fair $6,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $6,000.

"—" (Par.). Music Box—(1,000; 50-75). Fair $5,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $5,000.

"—" (Par.). Seattle—(2,500; 50-75). Fair $10,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $10,000.

2 Years Off

St. Petersburg, Fla.—Frank A. Arnold, a director of the National Broadcasting Company, who is wintering here, said yesterday that television would not be developed on a commercial basis for at least two more years.

other company

other company

Garbo Cracks Record at K. C. With $20,700

Indianapolis Chases Blues Via 'Reducing'

other company

other company

"Reducing" Is Pacemaker in Washington

Washington—For took the top money with "The Blue Angel," although the gross did not attain the imposing figures indicated by an opening start. Opening was big, but poor second day customers howling and word-of-mouth raps cut into the final four days. House opens one hour earlier (10 a.m.) for "The Man Who Came Back." It is expected to go two weeks.

Best business in town went to "Reducing," which won a second week day without a contest. F street goes strong for Marie and not even Garbo can keep dividends down. Three Divulers ("Caught Short," "Min and Bill" and "Reducing") rang in. Not to mention her bet in "Let Us Be Gay" and "Anna Christie."

Marion Davies got a little better than average at the Jubilee. Palace with "The Bachelor Father." Hays code kept the soft pedal on advertising.

After "Little Caesar" business at the Earle expected to be a small draw and did. "Other Men's Women" not so forte and word of mouth didn't help. 3-day no Emotions and house anticipates drop to Prosperity street with "Illicit" across and Benny Rubin on stage, opening Saturday.

Jack Oakie's "Sidewalks of New York" was caught in the partial eclipse when "Cimarron" got great pre-view on all the front pages, the society columns and theatrical extension. "Cim" got off to a capital start with two dead head benefits included everybody connected with the picture as the government and Capital scribes from the National Club. Opening on RKO back to more than $10,000 but Herm Brown Beach Sport it will drop will spurt. Mark Loescher's bill to Postal Telegraph alone was $1,200, and for this got 500 clippings.

D. W. Griffith's synchronized "Birth Of a Nation" did pretty good. Grey beard reviewers give it the works for sentimental reasons, but younger generation found it is out of date and paid no grandstand notice.

"Little Caesar" had a fine second run at the Metropolitan, but not enough to justify three weeks down town.

Estimated takings for week ending January 30:

"REDUCING" (M-G-M). Columbia—(1,232; 75-$1.50). Good $15,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $12,000.

"THE BLUE ANGEL" (U.A.). Fox—(1,400; 75-$1.50). Fair $12,000. Last week, "Sporting Blood" (M-G-M), $12,000.

Wall

Providence—If civilization is to remain Christian the church must make use of the press, the radio and the movies, Rev. Frederick A. Wilmot, religious editor, told a gathering in the Pawtucket Y.M.C.A. These three agencies, he said, are making a tremendous impression on people.

"Two-thirds of the population of the country never darkens the door of any church; the clergyman deplored.

Vocal Robot Alters Actors' Speech Faults

(Continued from page 1)

of motion picture's sound departments is to reproduce the voice as naturally as possible without artificial change. But there are times when improvements are necessary. Dooming minor tone [illegible] need refining

"Adults Only" Gets Garbo a $51,050 Week

Chicago—Playing to adults only, "Inspiration" garnered $51,050 at the Chicago to lead the town. "The Blue Angel" continued excellent but is slipping. The McVickers with "The Big Parade" and "Welcome Home" Back," but followed with "The Doorway to Hell," which got $18,000 last week at its first three days $18,000. Chicago likes period, about 60 grosses. The Par [illegible] had a brief four days with "Sporting Blood" and Was Forgotten.

Estimated gross for week ending January 30, ending [illegible]

"THE BLUE ANGEL" (Para.) Roosevelt—(1,500; 75-$1.50). Estimated gross for week ending January 30, ending [illegible]

"FLAME" (U.A.). Woods—(1,500; 75-$1.50). Estimated gross for week ending January 30, ending [illegible]

"MAN WHO CAME BACK" (Fox). McVickers—(1,500; 75-$1.50). Estimated gross for week ending January 30, ending [illegible]

"—" (Par.). Harris—(1,000; 75-$1.50). Estimated gross for week ending January 30, ending [illegible]

$9,500 Gives "Reducing" 1st Place at K. C.

Oklahoma City—[illegible] was the leader here last week with a gross of $9,500 at the [illegible] weather cut [illegible] Other theatres held [illegible] running attractions.

Estimated takings for week ending [illegible]

"—" (M-G-M). [illegible] days. "—" (Par.). Commodore—(1,000; 50-75). [illegible] days.

"—" (Par.). [illegible] days.

"ROYAL FAMILY OF BROADWAY" (Par.). Capitol—(4,000; 75-$1.50). [illegible] days.

"—" (Par.). Mid-West—(1,000; 50-75). [illegible] days.

MGM MGM MGM

HITS! HITS! ISN'T IT GREAT THE WAY M-G-M KEEPS DELIVERING!

And More on the Way—



MARION DAVIES

"IT'S A WISE CHILD" ran a year on Broadway. Keen competition for film rights, but M-G-M knew it was perfect for Marion, so here it is—and how!



JOAN CRAWFORD

"DANCE FOOLS DANCE" is better than "PAID." That's a large statement to make but your box-office will back it up!



NORMA SHEARER

"STRANGERS MAY KISS" brings Norma to a waiting public, authored by Ursula Parrott and with Bob Montgomery, both important factors in the success of "DIVORCEE."



LAWRENCE TIBBETT

"THE SOUTHERNER" gives Tibbett an utterly "different" role. Every trade reviewer who has seen it, predicts it will be the season's surprise.



CONSTANCE BENNETT

"THE EASIEST WAY" is typical of M-G-M's handling of an important box-office star. This great stage drama is a fascinating screen entertainment.



WALLACE BEERY

"THE SECRET SIX" is a real follow-up to "THE BIG HOUSE." The same director, George Hill, has made another gripping box-office drama.

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

It's a pleasure!

PRESTIGE



LIKE THE PROWESS OF A KNIGHT OF OLD

the fame of the Northern Electric Sound System has reached the farthest confines of this great Dominion. "The Voice of Action"—the family name of this equipment is a name to conjour with in all corners of the globe, 7,600 installations in 57 foreign countries —350 in Canada.

You can participate in this prestige—if you will,

Enquire of the

RESEARCH PRODUCTS SALES DEPARTMENT

637 CRAIG STREET WEST - MONTREAL, P.Q.

Northern Electric
SOUND SYSTEM
The VOICE of ACTION

Western Electric in U. S. A.

Keep Your Sunny Side Up

with

Charles Farrell—Elissa Landi in

"Body and Soul"

Will Rogers in

"A Connecticut Yankee"

El Brendel—Fifi Dorsay in

"Mr. Lemon of Orange"

George O'Brien—Marion Lessing in

"Seas Beneath"

Janet Gaynor in

"Daddy Long Legs"

with Thomas Meighan

Victor McLaglen in

"Not Exactly Gentlemen"

with Fay Wray—Lew Cody—Eddie Gribbon

Warner Baxter—Joan Bennett in

"Doctors' Wives"

Edmund Lowe—Jeanette MacDonald in

"Don't Bet on Women"

Ann Harding in the New

"East Lynne"

with Clive Brook—Conrad Nagel

Edmund Lowe—Victor McLaglen in

"Women of All Nations"

with Greta Nissen—Marjorie White—El Brendel—Fifi Dorsay

They're All FOX Box Office Stimulators—With More to Follow

Fox Film Corporation, Limited

HARLEY L. CLARKE, President.

Toronto - Montreal - St. John - Winnipeg - Calgary - Vancouver

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

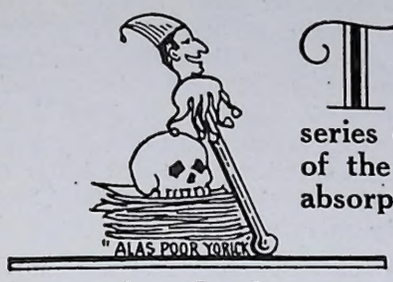
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Cable: Ontocanada

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259 Spadina Ave. - Toronto

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 22, No. 44 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | February 28th, 1931

"Trust or Bust"



THE GOVERNMENT Investigation of the Famous-Players Canadian Corporation, Paramount - Publix and subsidiaries, has precipitated the formation of a series of Independent Theatre Companies in various parts of the Dominion. The Digest prophesied that following the absorption of Famous Players Canadian by Paramount-Publix that the Famous Players Canadian Corp. would find its dominant position severely challenged by just such a development.

"The Digest warns the directors of the Famous Players Canadian Corp. that they are, in the selling of our Canadian Screens to American Film Interests, precipitating a great deal of trouble for the American Film Industry.

"Those who have been complaining about the American Film Monopoly of our Screens, will now have a real cause for complaint; and is it not logical to conclude that the Canadian Government will take legislative steps to protect from foreign control, the power of our screen, so potent, and all-persuasive in its potentialities for forming public opinion?

"Already, we have an example of what legislation can do to the Film Industry in the Province of Quebec. Legislation is now pending in other provinces.

"Will not the entire Film Industry suffer as a consequence; and will not the Famous Lasky Paramount Company come in for a great deal of criticism and antagonism, which will react upon the entire American Film Industry?

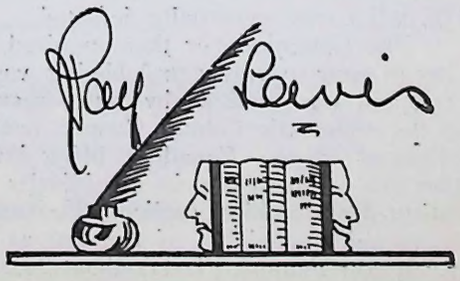
"Will not independent Canadian theatre owners resent the Paramount theatre competition, since they buy their films also from this company? Will they not cry out against an unfair competition which is destroying their livelihood?

"Will not independent distributors also feel that Paramount has sewed Canada up for itself?

"Will not these other companies feel that the competition of a producer-distributor-exhibitor organization controlling the leading theatres across Canada, prevents their product from fair competition in bookings?"

These are a few of the facts as presented in The Digest, April 26th, 1930, all have come true; and yet Paramount-Publix will not be warned, nor advised.

"Trust or Bust" appears to be its motto. It may be possible to work this policy in the U. S., but it will not work out in Canada, for as we have previously stated, across Canada, Independent Theatre chains are forming, organized by Canadians, who have also made up their mind to a policy of "Bust the Trust!"



RAY PRESENTS



RAY LEWIS

BETWEEN Arthur Cohen, Managing Director of the Famous Players Canadian Corp., and Col. John Cooper, head of the Hays Organization, Canada, appears to be a war as to which of the two, in the Government Investigation can testify and give the most damaging evidence, or occasion such evidence as will prove most damaging to the Famous Players Canadian Corp., Paramount-Publix and subsidiaries.

FOR INSTANCE, Col. John Cooper stated repeatedly that the Canadian Hays Organization and the U. S. organization were only friends; and yet when the minutes of the Motion Picture Distributors' meeting of April 17th, 1930, were read in court, these minutes disclosed, "The President reported on his visit to New York and his attendance at a meeting of the Company solicitors at the Hays Organization, for the purpose of considering the Canadian Exhibitors' contract as drafted" and "changes in the rules of arbitration were approved." Whereupon Commissioner White said, "Having reminded you of that, do you wish to change your statement that this was a friendly visit to New York?" Whereupon Col. Cooper replied, "No."

Col. Cooper then proceeded to state that the only exhibitor members in his organization were 24 Famous Players' representatives; and that the Hays' Organization did not want independent exhibitors. Col. Cooper then proceeded to inform Commissioner White, that, when the association was formed it was thought wise to have exhibitor members to enlarge its representation in case it needed to approach Ottawa about anything. "But," said "the Czar of the Canadian Industry," in his diplomatic way, "it had accomplished its purpose without independent members."

Col. Cooper was then questioned in respect to the British Film Quota. A few telegrams were read which had been sent to Col. Cooper from British Columbia regarding a bill introduced there to raise the quota of British films to 20%. One was signed by Marshall, Vice-President of the Film Board of Trade, Vancouver, and stated that it was "necessary for distributors to oppose the bill," and added, "adequate financial assistance from your regular office required."

THE BILL was eventually defeated.

The Commissioner then inquired, "according to your memos your lobbying was successful, and was financed by your organization?" Whereupon the diplomatic Colonel Cooper, testifying on behalf of Famous Players Canadian, being investigated as to whether this company and its subsidiaries and affiliations constituted a Combine, replied, "Famous Players financed it, we paid one-eighth of the cost as a matter of courtesy. It cost Famous Players about $5,000."

Which decidedly gave strength to Miss Joan Arnoldi's evidence in respect to Famous Players attitude regarding British films. The evidence also disclosed that Col. Cooper had stayed in the background while Manager Muir of the Capitol did the fighting, because, as Col. Cooper explained to the Commissioner, "It was better to have the opposition to the British Film Quota Bill opposed by an exhibitor."

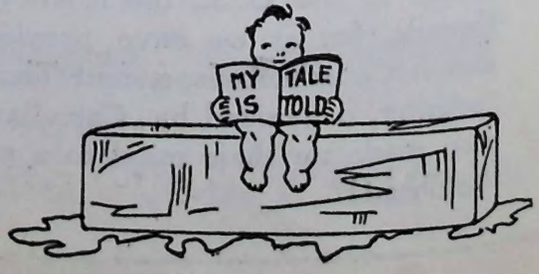
OTHER memos were then read, and Col. Cooper finally admitted that the members of his organization were members of American exchanges, who, in turn, were members of the Hays' Organization; that his association looked to New York for guidance, and that its money was held in United States banks in trust by the Hays' Organization.

Before leaving the witness box, the Commissioner inquired of Col. Cooper, "Are you in favour of the compulsory showing of British films?"

"I'm not in favour of compulsory anything," replied Colonel Cooper, which made even the stray cat, which wandered into the courtroom, break into a cat-like laugh!

The Commissioner, Peter White, K.C., looked at Col. Cooper's retreating form, and said, "That's the supreme joke of this investigation." Now use your imagination!

The Digest editor, Ray Lewis, was then called. Our readers will find part of her evidence on page 8. As for Arthur Cohen's help to Famous Players Canadian in this investigation, it is just about as helpful as Col. Cooper's. The "Gold-Dust Twins" have been a wonderful act, full of entertainment, for those who visit the Court hearings. They have tried to outsmart the Commissioner, the Counsel for the Government, their own Counsel, Cohen arising to question witnesses; and the results have been so satisfactory to the complainants in this investigation, that if Adolph Zukor would make them the same offer which he made to Louis Selznick, when "Louis" was being such annoying opposition, namely $5,000 a year to live in China, Mr. Zukor would save the Film Industry of Canada, and its Film Interests many times his investment. If your editor has anything to say in the matter, she would advise Mr. Zukor to pay the "Gold-Dust Twins" in Chinese money, 5,000 yens! That would be ample.

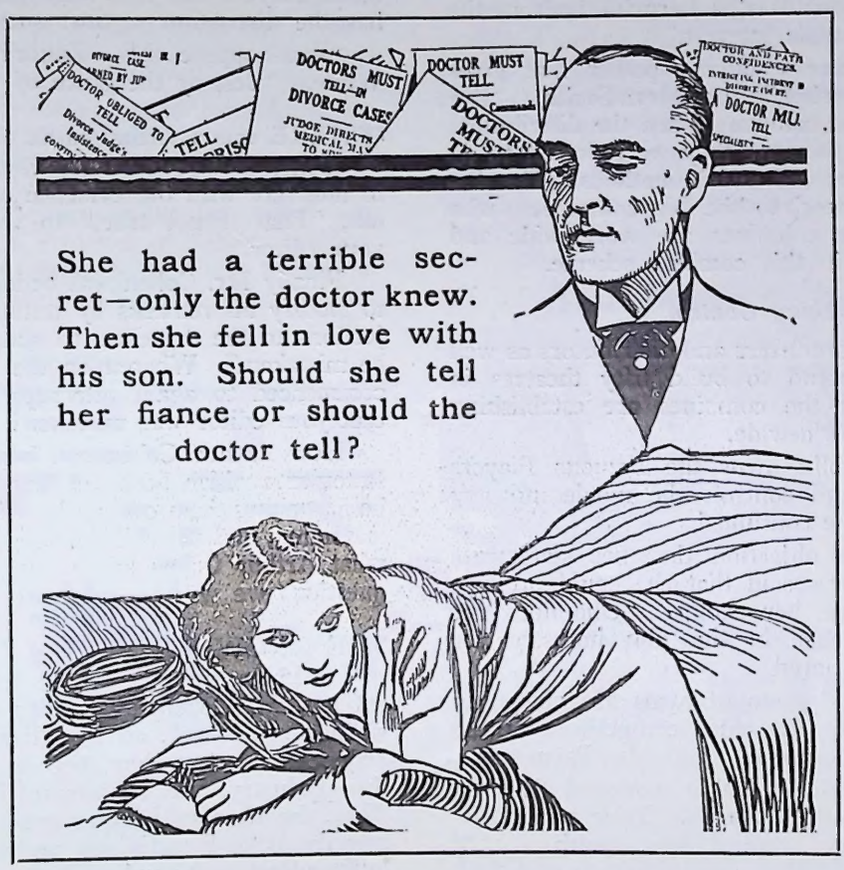


British Lion Film Corporation Ltd. Presents

SHOULD A DOCTOR TELL?

The Dramatic Story of a Conflict Between Parental Love and Professional Principle.

A Picture Which Live Showmen Can Exploit as They Never Before Exploited


DOCTOR OBLIGED TO TELL
DOCTORS MUST TELL—IN DIVORCE CASES
DOCTOR MUST TELL
She had a terrible secret—only the doctor knew. Then she fell in love with his son. Should she tell her fiance or should the doctor tell?

It's a Box Office "Natural" Which Can Be Exploited From Hundreds of Angles

Never Before Such a Gripping Problem Play! Audiences Will Just "Eat It Up!"

Ready for Immediate Release

Distributed in Canada by Regal Films Limited

"Opposes Zukor by Grace of God"

Ray Lewis Testifies in Government Investigation Accusing Famous Players of Monopolizing Canadian Film Industry

THE TORONTO Daily Star, reporting on the evidence as given by Ray Lewis, Editor of The Canadian Moving Picture Digest, at the Government's Inquiry of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, and subsidiaries, under Mr. Peter White, K.C., Commissioner, states:

"Evidence of a startling nature, including charges of monopoly control by the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, unavailing objection by leading film exchanges, and the "squeezing-out" of individual theatreowners, were made by Mrs. Joshua Smith, editor of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, at the resumed hearing of the film inquiry to-day. Peter White, K.C., presided.

Declaring that the Famous Players Corporation was assuming complete control of the movie industry both in America and Canada, Mrs. Smith launched a strong and bitter denunciation of the combines. Condemnation of the block-booking system was also expressed, Mrs. Smith asserting that "the pernicious system by which the exhibitors outside the Famous Players Corporation would secure only the poorer pictures is harmful both to the film industry and the public interest."

"Famous Players have a buying power that gives them control of the market," said Mrs. Smith. "I've been in the offices of the company when the distributors were tearing their hair, because they were forced to do business under obnoxious and unfair methods. The distributors have to 'kow-tow' to the big companies, who have a monopoly. The combines are world-wide and Canada is only a unit in this combine scheme.

Establishing Control

Famous Players are producers and distributors as well as exhibitors. They intend to build fifty theatres in England this year, and the combines are establishing control which will be world-wide.

"The Paramount-Publix owns the Famous Players Canadian Corporation and controls the movie industry throughout America," she continued.

To Mr. Parmenter's objection that her statements were not evidence, witness said that she could produce documents to substantiate her claims. "One does not conjecture after experience in the film industry for seventeen years," she declared.

"It is not true that Paramount owns an interest in First National. The are the chief competitors in the United States to First National," said Mr. Parmenter.

"I can prove that Adolph Zukor arranged the deal between First National and Warners. Their public differences are only scenery," replied Mrs. Smith.

"I wish that were true," murmured Mr. Parmenter.

"Fred Guest, the Hamilton and Vancouver individual theatre owner, has made a million dollars," said Mr. Parmenter. "If he did, Mr. Zukor did not know of it," declared witness emphatically.

"The uninvited guest," commented counsel.

Object to Restrictions

"Most of the distributors are in the power of the Famous Players Corporation and have been objecting for some time to the restrictions placed on them by the combine," continued Mrs. Smith who was reluctant to name the companies.

Mr. Parmenter, after consultation with the distributors, said that there was no objection.

"Well, if you want to know, the exchanges are Universal, F.B.O., Fox, Warners, United Artists, and Educational."

"Any others?" "Well that is enough to go on with. I have been in Mr. Fox's office when he has used language in describing the combine that would have rivalled the language said to have been used by Queen Elizabeth on many occasions."

"And you say that these exchanges have been objecting to Famous Players' monopoly?" "Yes."

"Famous Players constitute a virtual monopoly in the film business by reason of their control of the key-situation," asserted Mrs. Smith. "The individual owners are being absorbed or put out of business."

That the shareholders of Famous Players had no say in the company's movements was a further contention.

"Adolph Zukor, trustee and president of Paramount-Publix, sold himself the company. He controls the Famous Players and is dictator in Canada. What chance has the distributor against such a powerful combine?"

"You oppose Mr. Zukor?" stated Commissioner White. "Yes, by the grace of God.'"

THERE was a virtual battle of words, between Arthur Cohen and your editor, when the former endeavored to interfere with the evidence of the witness, by calling out, "That is not true," to the evidence as given by your editor.

Finally Mr. Cohen was ordered by the Commissioner to modify his remarks by stating that if he had any objections to the evidence, to state that your editor "may be mistaken." Whereupon the "smiling Arthur Cohen" commenced to again interrupt with the mistaken idea that your editor was mistaken!

How Arthur Cohen can hope to get away with the statements which he is making is only possible, because he is making them out of the witness box. But his turn is coming, and we will then have an opportunity to hear what Arthur Cohen has to say in reply to a number of questions we will be interested in asking him.

WE KNOW that Mr. N. L. Nathanson will be glad to know, since he helped Arthur Cohen to his present job, that Cohen is assuming the attitude of a "whitewashed sepulchre", all that Famous Players did to the Independents was done before the Good Samaritan of this Industry, the Paramount-Publix assumed control. Now, the Famous Players are "whiter than snow," despite the B. & F. activities, and the absorption of several outstanding Independents, the absorption of Famous Players by Paramount-Publix by a method which was acclaimed by the Financial Press as a "raw deal."

IT SOUNDS amusing to hear Arthur Cohen, in his diminutive showmanship ability, state, in answer to a prospectus statement which Famous Players had made, stating that this company was virtually a monopoly, that Mr. Nathanson was responsible for a number of "loose statements."

What a laugh this will give "N. L.," who is responsible for turning Arthur Cohen "loose" upon the Famous Players Canadian; and what a laugh this gives us all, when we know that it takes Arthur a week to make up his mind about anything, and then the decision is so "weak" he does not remember what he weakly promised!



Show Business



(*Special to Digest from Winnipeg*)

There will be 7,500 school children of Winnipeg in charge of J. T. C. Pincock, secretary of the school board, viewing the films displayed during British Film Week at the Playhouse Theatre, Winnipeg, the week of March 2nd. The films will be presented under the auspices of the National Council of Education. They depict British, Indian and African scenes. The four major films are "Shiraz," picturing India; "Stampede," a film of African jungle life; "Scott's Expedition to the South Pole," described as "the film triumphant," and "Royal Remembrances," depicting European royalty in Queen Victoria's reign. The chairman will be Judge Dysart.

(*Special to Digest from Ottawa*)

The extent to which Manager Joe Franklin is known was shown when he received a letter from the United States addressed to Joe Franklin, Theatre, Ontario, no post office address being mentioned. Ontario happens to be 600 miles by 1,000 or more, yet the communication was delivered to Keith's Theatre without delay.

The amusement tax revenue for the past fiscal year amounts to $225,000 in the Province of Alberta, according to the announcement of Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer. This is a reduction of $40,000 from the previous year.

Famous Players Canadian Corp. is changing its fiscal year to end December 31 instead of August 30 to correspond with the fiscal 12 months of Paramount-Publix Corp. There will be a special report for the last four months of 1930. No financial statement has been issued by Famous Players since October, 1929.

The Imperial Theatre, Montreal, is to revert to R-K-O vaudeville after Easter, it is announced, the present all-film policy having put the historic theatre far into the red, even with double-feature bills. Under the Albee regime, the Imperial was the home of big-time vaudeville.

There was a rush of youngsters to the Imperial Theatre, Ottawa, for the matinee on February 28 for two reasons. One was "Beau Ideal"; the other was the offer by Manager Tubman of a bag of marbles to every youthful patron to signify the arrival of spring.

Famous Players Canadian Corp. has added to its list of theatres owned outright by the purchase from G. W. Hunt of the attractive Belsize Theatre, a new Toronto suburban house, for the sum of $158,000.

Pete Egan, famed Western Canadian manager and prominent in both amateur sport and municipal circles, has been transferred from the Capitol Theatre, Regina, to the management of the Capitol Theatre at Calgary, Alberta.

Will McLaughlin, dramatic reviewer of the Ottawa Journal for many years, has been seriously ill with pneumonia in the Ottawa General Hospital.

A visitor in Ottawa and Montreal was Charlie Dentelbeck, projection supervisor of Famous Players Canadian Corp. While in Montreal, Dentelbeck put the finishing touches on the new giant screen at the Palace Theatre which was used for the first time with spectacular scenes in "Cimarron" which opened February 28.

De Forest Phonofilm Loses Infringement Suit

The suit brought by De Forest Phonofilm of Canada against Famous Players Canadian Corporation, alleging patent infringement in connection with apparatus supplied by Northern Electric was dismissed by the Exchequer Court, Ottawa, on February 14th.

This decision marks the ninth recent success of Western and Northern Electric interests in sound litigation in United States and Canada.

Ned Depinet Joins Pathe

Lee Marcus, President of Pathe, announced that Ned. E. Depinet, former general sales manager of First National, has been appointed Vice-President and General Sales Manager of R-K-O - Pathe. Depinet will assume his new duties next month. Mr. Depinet has been in the film business since 1907, and was recently in charge of the Southern and Western distribution for Warner-First National-Vitaphone.

Columbia Studios Busy

Work at the Columbia Studios, Hollywood, Calif., has reached a peak, with twelve features in various stages of production. There are six pictures being prepared, three being cut, and three before the cameras.

Three Theatres Equipped With De Forest Phonofilm

The following three theatres are being equipped with De Forest Phonofilm Sound Equipment: The Wonderland Theatre, Magog; Regal Theatre, Rouyn; and the Corona Theatre at St. Hyacinthe.

Adjudged Bankrupt

The Wallaceburg Theatre Co., Toronto, Ont., were adjudged bankrupt in an order made by the official registrar, Mr. W. J. Reilly, as a result of a receiving order given to Mr. Reilly by the Theatre Holding Co., creditors for the sum of $645.00.

Coleman Reports New Installations

The Coleman Electric Co., of Toronto, report a very heavy volume of business since the New Year, and in addition have booked on their files several further new installations to be made shortly. Among the larger installations are noted Strong Junior Lamps, Cont-El-Arc Set and Superlite Perforated Sound Screen in the Lyndhurst Theatre, Toronto; Cont-El-Arc Set in the Kum-C Theatre, Toronto; Cont-El-Arc Set, Strong Junior Lamps and Celco Rear Simplex Shutters in the Capitol Theatre, Simcoe, Ont.; Cont-El-Arc Set, Strong Junior Lamps and Vocalite Sound Screen in the Kent Theatre, Lindsay, Ont.; Strong Junior Lamps and Celco Rear Simplex Shutters in the Web Theatre, Niagara Falls, Ont.; Motiograph De Luxe Lamps and Celco Rear Simplex Shutters in the Capitol Theatre, Brampton, Ont.; and Superlite Perforated Screen in the Capitol Theatre, Belleville, Ont. In addition to these, among other installations, there has been a brisk business in Lenses, Theatre Supplies, Repairs, etc.

Lake Edward Sanatorium

The Lake Edward Sanatorium, which is situated in the highest portion of the Laurentians, between Lake St. John, and Three Rivers, is the first sanitorium in Canada to be equipped with Northern Electric Sound System, the installation of which has just been completed.

The performances are to be held bi-weekly; the first performance, as reported by Signard Andreson, who put the job through, was a great success, with full attendance by all the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

M-G-M Release Dates Set

The release dates of nine of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's new productions have been set, as follows:

"Parlour, Bedroom and Bath," February 28; "A Gentleman's Fate," March 7; "Men Call It Love," March 14; "Strangers May Kiss," March 21; "Daybreak," March 28; "A Tailor-Made Man," April 4; "It's a Wise Child," April 11; "Stepping Out," April 18; "The Secret Six," April 25.

British Feature Pictures

That British-made feature pictures, provided they are of good quality, will draw crowds to Canadian theatres, has just been demonstrated by the splendid business done by the Uptown Theatre, Toronto, one of the key houses of Famous Players Canadian Corp. In the past month that theatre has shown two of British International Pictures Ltd. "Imperial Eight" features, "Young Woodley" and "Murder." Each of the productions played a week, with most gratifying results.

Every Toronto newspaper praised the pictures highly and two of the critics ran special articles on both "Young Woodley" and "Murder" in their week-end dramatic sections.

If the other six pictures in the "Imperial Eight" group are of the same high standard as the two already released, exhibitors will miss a good thing by not booking them. The balance of the series consist of the following: "The Middle Watch," "Suspense," "The Man From Chicago," "The 'W' Plan," "Nightbirds" and "The Yellow Mask."

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

Beginning Monday free passes to certain Winnipeg theatres, including the Arlington, Capital, Crescent, Gaiety, Metropolitan, Osborne, Winnipeg, Tivoli and Wonderland, will, through the generosity of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, be available each week to the blind, the passes allowing also of the admission of a competent adult guide with each blind person. The arrangement is not limited to Winnipeg, but covers all Canada.

Representatives of the blind have expressed great pleasure at the arrangement, the talkies having made it possible to follow the pictures. Major Ernest Flexman will distribute the passes at the office of the institute. This system has been worked successfully in Saskatoon, Sask.

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Superlite, Projex and Ross Lenses. The class of the market.

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"The Devil To Pay"

ANOTHER bull's eye for United Artists, and this is no "bull," for "The Devil to Pay" is such excellent entertainment, that the public will only be too glad to pay, when they visit Loew's Theatre, Toronto, to which theatre it is soon coming.

Being a "smart girl," your editor saw the picture first, privately, before it had been released here; and as an advance tip, we are letting the Canadian exhibitors know that they can't go wrong with "The Devil to Pay." Ronald Colman has the best part of his career. That is a big statement, but it is our story and we are prepared to stick to it.

Colman has a role that fits him like a glove; and if the public thought he was great in "Raffles," just listen to your public when they talk about Colman in "The Devil to Pay."

Great dialogue and great action, using the word "great" in that sense as it expresses Entertainment!

It is essentially a big house picture, but should please in any house where the patronage knows Quality!

George Fitzmaurice directed this story by Frederick Lonsdale to make the most of its snappy dialogue, and speedy action; set in an English atmosphere and enviroment; and again Samuel Goldwyn is the producer of a winner!

Loretta Young and Myrna Loy, Frederick Carr and David Torrence all keep up the grade which Colman sets, for excellent characterizations.

RAY LEWIS,

Editor, Canadian Moving Picture Digest.

Round About the Studios



Ricardo Cortez and Barbara Stanwyck in Columbia's production, "Ten Cents a Dance."

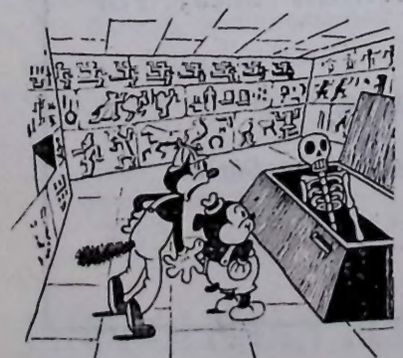
Leila Hyams, who recently played the lead with John Gilbert in "Gentleman's Fate," for M-G-M, will replace Edna Best in the cast of "Cheri Bibi," Gilbert's next starring vehicle, according to an announcement received last week from the M-G-M studios.

Budd Fine and Nelson McDowell, both former stage players of note, have been assigned to important roles in Columbia Pictures latest Buck Jones "Special," "The Fighting Patrol." This thrilling action drama is seventh in a series of eight outdoor westerns that the popular daredevil star is making for the company. Ross Lederman is directing and the cast to date includes, Carmelita Geraghty, Harry Todd, Billy Bletcher, Harry Woods and Ed. Brady.

"Dracula," which was passed up by the movies for seven years, has astounded the wise men and proven again the wisdom of the Laemmles, father and son. They and Tod Browning were almost the only ones in the film world who had faith in it. But "Dracula," which greatly pleased the public and the critics in New York, is being "held over" in theatres where no picture was ever held over before.

F. McGrew Willis, well known screen writer, has been signed to prepare the adaptation of Columbia's "Meet the Wife," which Christie Brothers, under the supervision of Al Christie will produce for the company.

"Meet the Wife," from the pen of Lynn Starling, proved to be the outstanding comedy sensation of the year, during its record run on Broadway as a stage play. A. Leslie Pearce will direct the screen version.



Pen and ink fun in the Pathe Aesop Fable, "Gypped in Egypt."

Charlie Chaplin and the habiliments of his screen tramp are both working hard at the personal appearance business in connection with "City Lights," Charlie being en route to London, where the film opens at the Dominion March 2nd, and his original costume — the derby, voluminous trousers, dapper frock coat — being en route from Hollywood east.

Beryl Mercer, who recently completed the role of the nurse in "East Lynne," has been added to the cast of "Always Goodbye," an original story by Kate McLaurin, which is soon to go into production for Fox at Movietone City.

Elissa Landi, Paul Cavanagh and Lewis Stone had previously been chosen for featured roles. Kenneth MacKenna and William Cameron Menzies will direct.

Pathe has set February 22nd as the release date on "Lonely Wives."

A popular cast plays this lively farce under the direction of Russell Mack. Edward Everett Horton fills the two principal dual roles. Laura La Plante, blonde comedienne, appears as his wife, while Esther Ralston fills another featured role. Patsy Ruth Miller will be seen as Horton's vivacious and wise-cracking secretary, while Maude Eburne, stage actress, has a hilarious role as the mother-in-law. Spencer Charters, who will be remembered for his work in both the stage and screen production of "Whoopee," completes the cast.

Edwin G. Knopf, who wrote the adaptation and dialogue for Universal of "Free Love," and the dialogue of "Gambling Daughters," is busily engaged upon the adaptation of "A Lady of Resource," the sensational serial by Arthur Somers Roche now running in Collier's Magazines. John Boles and Rose Hobart have already been assigned to the two leading roles.

"Lightning Flyer" has been selected as the title of Columbia's thrilling railroad drama, which was produced under the working title of "Danger Ahead." The picture is the first production in the company's "Money Getters" series. James Hall and Dorothy Sebastian are featured, and the balance of the cast includes: Robert Homans, Albert J. Smith and Walter Merrill. William Nigh, directed.

Joan Standing will play the affable maid, Julia, who befriends the little South Sea Island girl in "Never the Twain Shall Meet," W. S. Van Dyke's next drectorial effort, a sound version of Peter B. Kyne's romance, according to a report from the Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer studios. Miss Standing's smiling face has been seen recently in "The Cohens and Kellys in Atlantic City," "The Kid's Clever" and "My Lady's Past."

Alfred T. Mannon, producer of the popular "Voice of Hollywood" series for Tiffany release, prepared a special reel for the opening bill of the new Los Angeles Theatres, Los Angeles, of which Charles Chaplin's "City Lights" was the feature attraction.

"East Lynne" has established a new four-day record at the Roxy. "Common Clay" previously held the record for this season. This new four-day mark by "East Lynne" is also ahead of the four-day results attained by "The Cock Eyed World" in the summer of 1929.

A well known Los Angeles chef was pressed into service by Director Rowland Brown during the fiiming of "Skyline," a Fox picture of higher racketeering. The chef became an actor for one day by preparing an elaborate spaghetti dinner which is shown being made and, later, eaten with gusto.

Two important story properties were acquired last week by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer when they purchased motion picture rights of every kind in the play, "Patachon" written by Maurice Hennequin and Felix Dusquesnel, and adapted by Leo Dietrichstein under the name, "Toto," and also screen rights to the story called, "By Candle Light," based upon "Kleine Komodie" by Siegfried Gaeyer.

Warren B. Duff's "Let's Get Famous," a sophisticated, light romance, has been secured by Columbia Pictures for production during the coming season. This is the fifth vehicle to be selected by the company for the new season's lineup, the other four being: Warner Fabian's "The Men in Her Life," one of the year's "best sellers," William Du Bois' "Pagan Lady," the sensational stage play in which Leonore Ulrich is starring on Broadway, "Help Yourself to Happiness," a popular Red Book serial by Frank R. Adams, and "It Might Have Happened," by Bella Muni and Adam Finkel.



Lillian Bond, popular New York stage actress, who has been signed as a featured player for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.